



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

New York District

New York Harbor, NY

Maintenance and Stewardship

FACT SHEET

AUGUST 2007

DESCRIPTION: Maintain the navigation channels and anchorage areas within the upper and lower harbor to include Preliminary Engineering and Design for future maintenance dredging of the channel. Manage and monitor Ocean Placement and Reef sites that accept dredged material from projects within the New York Harbor as well as oversee all sampling, testing, and evaluation of testing data for all proposed ocean disposal projects.

AUTHORIZATION: The New York Harbor Federal Navigation project consists of the Ambrose, southerly entrance, Bayside and Main Ship Channels adopted in 1884, modified 1933, 1937, 1958, 1965, and 1982. Also, the Anchorage Channel adopted in 1930 and modified in 1937. Additionally, Anchorage Areas (Gravesend Bay and Red Hook Flats) adopted in 1965 and modified in 1982.

Anchorage Areas and Channel along New Jersey Pierhead Line adopted in 1935 provides for a channel, 20 feet deep, 500 feet wide with widening of the bends to 800 feet along the New Jersey Pierhead Line, connecting Kill Van Kull with deep water in Anchorage Channel south of the Liberty Island Anchorage. Length of the New Jersey Pierhead Line is about 3 miles.

In 1972, Congress enacted the Marine Protection Research and Sanctuaries Act (MPRSA) to address and control the dumping of materials into ocean waters. Title I of the Act authorized the USEPA and the USACE to regulate dumping in ocean waters. The USEPA and USACE share responsibility for the MPRSA permitting and ocean disposal site management. The USEPA regulations implementing the MPRSA are found at 40 CFR Sections 220 through 229. The MPRSA divides permitting responsibility between the USEPA and USACE. Under Section 102 of the MPRSA, the USEPA has responsibility for issuing permits for all materials other than dredged material. Under Section 103 of the MPRSA, the Secretary of the Army has the responsibility for issuing permits for dredged material, subject to USEPA concurrence.

STATUS: NJ Pierhead Channel, Main Ship Channel are being reviewed presently to determine if Engineering & Design activities are required at this time for possible future dredging of the channel. The Anchorage channel and Ambrose channel are scheduled for navigation improvements (deepening) and thus maintenance is not necessary at the time. Continued reviews of the conditions of these channels and anchorages are ongoing.

Plans for the continued management and monitoring of ocean dump sites (i.e. HARS) for dredged material have been agreed to between the New York District and EPA Region 2. These plans require extensive chemical, biological and physical surveys of select areas within the site. Monitoring will assess the physical integrity of capping contaminated dredged material placed during historic disposal activities, assuring that required cap thicknesses are maintained and that any erosion has not caused unacceptable adverse impacts. The HARS has received on average 4 million to 6 million cubic yards of material per year from federal and private dredging projects within the New York Region. Sampling and testing and review of those results are performed for all material proposed for ocean disposal as well as monitoring the effects on the HARS from projects deemed suitable for the HARS.

Modeling and other investigations for the re-assessment of ocean disposal criteria is on going.

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District Area: NY #7,8,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17 and NJ # 6,8,9,10,11,12,13